

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 7, and 9-15 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 4-6 and withdrawn claims 16-33 are cancelled without prejudice regarding their subject matter. Applicant explicitly reserves the right to file a continuation application and/or divisional applications directed to the cancelled claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 and 9-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Agee et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,922,896). This rejection is traversed.

Claims 1, and 4-6 are cancelled without prejudice regarding their subject matter. Applicant explicitly reserves the right to file a continuation application directed to the cancelled claims. Claims 2, 3, 9, 13, and 14 are amended to depend from allowable claim 7. Claims 10-12 and 15 ultimately depend from allowed claim 7. Therefore, claims 2, 3, and 9-15 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 7 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 7 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3, 9, 13, and 14 are amended to depend from allowable claim 7. Claims 10-12 and 15 ultimately depend from allowed claim 7. Therefore, claims 2, 3, and 9-15 are also in condition for allowance.


CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


Maria Comninou
Reg. No. 44,626
Stephen T. Olson
Reg. No. 36,626

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

STO/MC/sms